

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 25-28, and 30-31 are pending in this application.

Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to further recite that the valve body is constructed as a piston slide element having at least one piston section. Further, claims 16 and 32 have been canceled. No new matter has been added by this reply, as support for the amendments may be found, for example, within the specification on page 12, lines 26-33 and in Figures 5-7 of the originally filed application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 11, 25-28, and 30**

Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 11, 25-28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,491,788 ("Kilayko"). Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply. To the extent that this rejection applies to claim 1 as amended, this rejection is respectively traversed.

Claim 1 recites a control valve for feeding a cleaning fluid to at least one nozzle opening of a nozzle. The valve comprises at least two outlets that are couplable with the at least

one nozzle opening, an inlet that is couplable with a feed pump for the cleaning fluid, and a valve body influencing at least two paths of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the at least two outlets. A first outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a first path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the first outlet, and a second outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a second path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the second outlet. The valve body is controlled by the pressure of the cleaning fluid such that the valve body can be disposed in at least two valve positions and determines, without involvement of an additional valve body, through which path of the first path, the second path, and combination thereof the cleaning fluid flows. At a first valve position, the valve body allows the cleaning fluid to flow through the first path, at a second valve position, the valve body blocks the first path such that the cleaning fluid substantially does not flow through the first path, while allowing the cleaning fluid to flow through the second path, and the valve body is constructed as a piston slide element having at least one piston section.

Kilayko, in particular, shows in Figures 2 and 3 a valve body 10 having a pair of openings 12, 14 and a flow channel 16 extending therebetween. Two cavities 18, 20 are aligned along the flow channel 16, and a vent 22 extends out through the side of the valve body 10 and communicates with one of the cavities 18, 20. Ball check valves 24, 26 are then provided within the cavities 18, 20, in which the ball check valves 24, 26 are responsive to pressure. Under conventional operation, the ball check valve 24 will seal the vent 22, in which fluid will travel through the flow channel 16, past the ball check valve 26 and out the opening 14. Then, if prime is lost, the ball check valve 24 will instead seal the opening 12 and open the vent 22, while ball check valve 26 simultaneously opening 14.

However, Applicant respectfully asserts that Kilayko fails to teach all of the elements of amended independent claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 additionally requires the valve body to be constructed as a *piston slide element having at least one piston section*. For example, as shown in Figure 5 of the present application, the valve body 70 is constructed as a piston slide element having two different-size piston sections 72 and 74. By having the piston sections 72 and 74, the piston slide element 70 will enable the cleaning fluid to flow from the inlet 24 through the first outlet 26 (referred to as path A) at a lower pressure. Then, when at a higher pressure, the slide element 70 moves toward the left against the spring 52, and the cleaning fluid flows from the inlet 24 through the second outlet 28 (referred to as path B) while path A is blocked. That is, as the pressure of the cleaning fluid changes, the slide element 70 may control through which of paths A and B the cleaning fluid may flow.

Kilayko, though, does not disclose or suggest a piston slide element having a piston section for the valve body or any other of the valve elements. Rather, as shown in Figures 2 and 3 and discussed above, Kilayko discloses using the ball check valves 24, 26 when sealing between the different passages of the valve 10. Thus, Kilayko fails to show or suggest the slide element of the present application and as required by independent claim 1.

In view of the above, Kilayko fails to teach each limitation recited in independent claim 1, as amended, as required to support a rejection under § 102. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Kilayko. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 12, 14, and 31

Claims 1, 12, 14, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,254,990 ("Blank"). Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply. To the extent that this rejection applies to claim 1 as amended, this rejection is respectively traversed.

Blank shows in Figures 1-3 a safety valve unit for hydraulic brakes to be used with automotive vehicles. The safety valve includes a body 24 that is connected between a fluid line 12 and two smaller fluid lines 16. A ball valve 38 is then mounted within the body 24 between two compression springs 48, in which the ball valve 38 will respond to pressure reductions, such as a breakage or leakage with the use with hydraulic brakes to provide a seal within the safety valve.

However, as similar with Kilayko, Applicant respectfully asserts that Blank fails to teach all of the elements of amended independent claim 1. Particularly, claim 1 requires that the valve body be constructed as *a piston slide element having at least one piston section*. Blank, though, discloses using the ball valve 38 when sealing between the different fluid lines 12 and 16. As such, Blank fails to show or suggest the slide element of the present application and as required by independent claim 1

In view of the above, Blank fails to teach each limitation recited in independent claim 1, as amended, as required to support a rejection under § 102. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Blank. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17102/013001).

Dated: July 16, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By JPO \$45,077
Jonathan P. Osha Thomas Seltzer
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant